

# Northern Highlights



## Community Update

Week of February 10th, 2025

School Address 40 Bridgenorth Dr, Aurora ON, L4G 7S6  
 Phone Number 905-727-4224  
 Principal: Jodi Fine [jodi.fine@yrdsb.ca](mailto:jodi.fine@yrdsb.ca)  
 Elementary Office Admin. Assist.: [diane.oreilly@yrdsb.ca](mailto:diane.oreilly@yrdsb.ca)  
 Diane O'Reilly  
 Superintendent: Deborah Joyce [deborah.joyce@yrdsb.ca](mailto:deborah.joyce@yrdsb.ca)  
 Trustee: Melanie Wright [melanie.wright@yrdsb.ca](mailto:melanie.wright@yrdsb.ca)

DATE	ACTIVITIES	UPCOMING
Monday Feb. 10 Day 4	Intermediate Boys Basketball Game at Lester B. Pearson PS (3:30 pm)	Feb. 17 - Family Day (no school) Feb. 18 - Electronic distribution of Term 1 Report Cards begins Feb. 19 - Term 1 Report Cards go home (paper copies) Feb. 21 - Winter Carnivale Day
Tuesday Feb. 11 Day 5		
Wednesday Feb. 12 Day 1		
Thursday Feb. 13 Day 2		
Friday Feb. 14 Day 3	Primary Snuggle Up and Read	

### \*INFORMATION & UPDATES\*

**FAMILIES PLANNING TO MORE OR STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER:** As we begin our planning for the 2025-2026 school year, we kindly ask you to inform the school office if your family has plans to move over the summer, or if your children will not be returning in September for any reason. This information helps us to ensure a smooth transition for all students and to make necessary staffing arrangements for the upcoming academic year. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and helps us in planning effectively for the new school year. Thank you for your support.

**FAMILY DASHBOARD/REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTION:** The YRDSB Family Dashboard will give you one-stop access to information and applications related to your child's education. It is designed to make it easier for you to engage with your child's education. Access the Family Dashboard at [family.yrdsb.ca](http://family.yrdsb.ca). Term 1 Report Cards will be available in the Family Dashboard. Parents/guardians will receive an email letting you know when the report card is available for your child and how to access it. If you do not have a Family Dashboard account, you can create one at any time by visiting [family.yrdsb.ca](http://family.yrdsb.ca), clicking on "No account?" and "Create one." *\*When creating an account, you must use the email address you have on file at your child's school. Detailed instructions and frequently asked questions are available at <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/family-dashboard>. Families are invited to share their feedback on the Family Dashboard through a [short survey](#) available in the Dashboard.*

**FAMILY AMBASSADOR INFORMATION EVENING RESCHEDULED:** In partnership with our Northern Lights School Council, we are pleased to introduce our **Family Ambassador Program**. We are looking for parents who wish to volunteer for this initiative. We aim to help support new families in the Northern Lights school community. Support could be provided in the following ways:

- help parents/families get better acquainted with the school, school routines and community;
- learn where to get up-to-date school information (e.g., Northern Highlights); or
- help English Language Learners looking to practice their English language skills.

Many of our new families have a home language that isn't English. In particular, we are keen to have ambassadors who speak Farsi/Persian, Mandarin, Cantonese and Russian, but we welcome anyone who has

another language to join us and even need some English speakers. If you would be interested in coming to a meeting on Monday, February 24th, at 6:30 pm to learn more about the program and to help us develop some guidelines, please complete the [Google Form](#). We will be meeting in the school conference room, alternatively, those who wish to join online may do so using the following link: <https://meet.google.com/yhg-pdvo-kuv>.

**SNUGGLE UP AND READ:** On Friday, February 14th, parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten through grade 3 are invited to our annual Snuggle Up and Read event in our school gym. During this time you will join your child's class and have the opportunity to read a variety of books. We are hoping that each class will read 100 books. If you are unable to join us, do not worry, your child will join their teacher or a family they know to read. The Primary students will be split into two different sessions to allow for as many families as possible to join us. Before each session starts, an adult will read a book to inspire us to read.

**Session 1:**

Kindergarten Classes, Ms. Jackson & Ms. Jones - 9:00 am - 9:30 am

**Session 2:**

Ms. Thayanithi, Ms. Walter, Mrs. Bressel & Ms. Bryson - 9:45 am - 10:15 am.

If you can join us, you must enter through the main doors of the school and remove your outdoor shoes by the gym. As you enter the gym you will see labels with your child's class where you can sit and wait for the classes to enter. If you have children in both sessions, then please stay in the gym after session 1 concludes and before session 2 begins. We are very excited to have this opportunity to Snuggle Up and Read and look forward to seeing you on February 14th.

**MARCH BREAK CAMP:** York Region Educational Services is offering a March Break Camp for students ages 5-12 years old. For more information and how to register, please [click here](#).

**STUDENT COUNCIL/GRADE EIGHT GRAD TEAM CANDY GRAMS:** The Grade 8 Grad Team and The Student Council will be selling candy grams from Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for \$1. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to SickKids Hospital. Not only will students be able to send a candy gram to a friend in the school, but their purchase will also come with a thank you card for SickKids nurses that they can fill out. It will be hand-delivered to the nurses as a sign of love and appreciation for their hard work all year round.

**PARENT/CAREGIVER WORKSHOP SUPPORTING STUDENTS OF CHINESE HERITAGE:** The YRDSB Community Care Social Work has been dedicated to offering this parent/caregiver virtual event to build community, support mental health, and promote healing. The session is offered for any parent/guardian of students of Chinese Heritage. Parents, caregivers are invited to join this workshop and engage in meaningful conversations that help students thrive at school. Tips on ways that help strengthen family relationships and emotional well-being will be shared. This will be a free virtual event.

Feb 25th, 2025 at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm Mandarin Session - [Registration for Mandarin Session](#)

Feb 25th, 2025 at 7:00 pm-8:00 pm Cantonese Session - [Registration for Cantonese Session](#)

**UNDERSTANDING AND NAVIGATING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM - FAMILIES OF YRDSB BLACK STUDENTS**

**MONTHLY INFO SESSION:** Families, parents, caregivers, please join us for our monthly virtual meeting, where families with Black children come together to learn about resources and upcoming programs for Black students in both elementary and secondary schools. Please [click here](#) to see our flyer for more information and to register.

**\*INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS\***

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:** Is your child turning 4 or 5 in 2025? Mark your calendars. Kindergarten registration opens on January 17.

**How to Register:**

- **Online** - Families can access the online Kindergarten registration information at [www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.yrdsb.ca/kindergarten). It is recommended that families use a laptop, or desktop, rather than a mobile device to complete the registration. Current families can also find the program registration link in the [Family Dashboard](#).

- **By email** - Families can download the [Elementary School Registration Form](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten) at [www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten](http://www.yrdsb.ca/Kindergarten) and email the completed form to [northern.lights.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:northern.lights.ps@yrdsb.ca)
- **By phone** - Families can request support to complete the registration form on their behalf by collecting the required information by phone. Families can request an interpreter, if needed, during this phone conversation.
- **In-person at the school** - Families may visit the school office to drop off or complete the registration form.

Once you have completed your application, the school will contact you to make an appointment to review and verify the [required documents](#).